

Minutes of Egremont Bylaws Review Committee

January 6 and January 13, 2021

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In attendance:

Mary McGurn, Chair (MM)

Steve Goodman (SG)

Richard Slutzky (RS)

Eileen Vining (EV)

Steve Cohen, (SC) Guest

The meeting was called to order at 4:32pm.

The meeting was recessed at 4:43 pm until January 13th due to members wishing to follow the live coverage of events unfolding at the U.S. Capitol.

January 13:

Mary McGurn, Chair (MM)

Richard Allen (RA)

Chet Delaney (CD)

Richard Slutzky (RS)

Eileen Vining (EV)

Steve Cohen (SC), Guest

Meeting reconvened at 4:00pm.

Finance Committee

The Committee reviewed Section 4.3 Finance Committee. The following changes to Section 4.3 were approved:

4.3.1 There shall be a Finance Committee composed of six voters. Members of the Finance Committee shall not hold any other town office or be on any other Board other than ad hoc committees. Each member shall serve for a term of three years, with two members appointed each year. Appointments shall be made as promptly as possible after the annual town election by a majority vote of an ad hoc appointing committee comprised of the town moderator (who shall be the chair of such committee), two members of the Selectboard designated by the Selectboard for this purpose (at least one of whom shall not have been on the previous committee) and two members of the Finance Committee designated by the Finance Committee for this purpose (at least one of whom shall not have been on the previous committee). Vacancies shall be filled as soon as possible by majority vote of a newly constituted ad hoc appointing committee comprised in the manner set forth above.

4.3.2 The Finance Committee shall review all financial proposals to be presented to a town meeting, and shall make recommendations with respect to each such proposal in writing as far in advance of the meeting as is practicable. The Finance Committee shall also review and make recommendations with respect to all proposed expenditures or changes in the expenditures not previously approved at a town meeting.

4.3.3 The Finance Committee shall investigate the financial aspects of town departments and Boards to the extent the Finance Committee deems necessary, and in connection with that investigation is authorized to summon town personnel to appear before it, and to request such reports and other information as it deems necessary or appropriate to fulfill its duties.

The Committee discussed further actions to be taken by this Committee, including:

1. Drafting a Citizen's Guide to provide additional information pertinent to but outside what is written in a bylaw.
2. To address consistency in terminology, grammatical usage, punctuation, formatting, etc upon completion of the substantive discussion of the general bylaws. CD agreed to lead this task.
3. To include in the proposed definition section to the General Bylaws, a definition of "ad hoc" as used in the bylaws.

Bylaw 7 Water Resources

The Committee agreed to postpone further discussion on this bylaw until RA investigates the definition of "harbor master" and ascertains if Prospect Lake is a harbor and until CD investigates the Egremont Chief of Police's assigned duties for Prospect Lake.

Bylaw 8 Employees

CD will incorporate member comments and provide a draft bylaw for further discussion.

Bylaw 9 Environment and Recycling

CD will incorporate member comments and provide a draft bylaw for further discussion.

Proposed Snow & Ice Removal from Sidewalks

MM introduced the proposal for a new bylaw based on the Rt 23/41 DOT (Department of Transportation) makeover of Main Street in South Egremont. The proposal for such a bylaw arose from the 1.19.2021 BoS meeting when Selectboard member Mary Brazie raised the issue of maintenance of the new sidewalks and the need for a bylaw assigning responsibility to abutters of the sidewalks. The Committee will discuss this bylaw further.

Upon motion made, the meeting adjourned at 6:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Slutzky, Secretary

